

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /090 W

-----241456Z 076088 /46

P R 241231Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3956

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0996

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI RETURNS FROM QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT

BEGIN SUMMARY. NIMEIRI TRIP TO SOUTHERN ARABIA AND HORN,
CLIMAXED BY TAIZ QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
PERSONAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS. IN ADDITION IMPROVING
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH YEMENS, OMAN AND SOMALIA,
NIMEIRI SUCCEEDED IN GETTING LEADERS TWO MOST RADICAL ARAB
GOVERNMENTS IN REGION SIT DOWN FOR SERIOUS AND FRIENDLY
DISCUSSIONS WITH TWO MODERATE ARAB LEADERS. THIS OPENS WAY
FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE NEXT STEPS IN EFFORTS BY MODERATE
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ARABS TO WEAN PDRY AND SOMALIA AWAY FROM SOVIET PATRONS.
TAIZ SUMMIT LEADERS AGREED MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL
CONFERENCE AT WHICH ALL RED SEA LITTORAL STATES WOULD BE
INVITED. SUMMIT MADE NO REFERENCES TO ETHIOPIA OR SOVIET
UNION. IT DID LINK RED SEA AREA SECURITY TO SECURITY IN
INDIAN OCEAN. INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT NIMEIRI

CONSIDERS TRIP QUITE SUCCESSFUL, AND THAT IT WILL ADD TO HIS PRESTIGE AND MAY EVEN BE FACTOR IN INCREASING ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA.

1. NIMEIRI RETURNED KHARTOUM WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 23, AFTER SUCCESSFUL NINE-DAY EFFORT AT PERSONAL DIPLOMACY IN SOUTHERN ARABIA AND HORN. TRIP CULMINATED IN TAIZ QUADRI-PARTITE SUMMIT MARCH 22. DURING HIS DIPLOMATIC TOUR, NIMEIRI HELPED SOLIDIFY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH LEADERS OF COUNTRIES VISITED. VARIOUS MINOR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED (REPORTED SEPARATELY), AND, AS NIMEIRI TOLD PRESS ON RETURN, HE ATTEMPTED OPEN CHANNELS COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OMAN AND PDRY IN EFFORT HELP RECONCILIATION BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORS.

2. CLIMAX OF VISIT WAS TAIZ SUMMIT ATTENDED BY NIMEIRI, HAMDI OF NORTH YEMEN, ROBAYA-ALI OF PDRY AND SIAD BARRE OF SOMALIA. WE UNDERSTAND IDEA FOR SUMMIT FIRST FLOATED DURING SADAT/ASSAD/NIMEIRI TRIPARTITE SUMMIT HERE LATE LAST MONTH AND WAS DISCUSSED FURTHER AMONG PROTAGONISTS AT TIME OF CAIRO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED THERE, FOLLOWING WHICH SUDANESE HASTILY PASTED TOGETHER THE DETAILS. QUESTION SIAD'S ATTENDANCE PROVED CLIFFHANGER BUT IN END HE MADE IT. MINED HAJ YOUSIF, WHO ACCOMPANIED NIMDIRI ON TOUR, TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 24 THAT SIAD HAD IN ANY CASE AUTHORIZED NIMEIRI REPRESENT HIM IN TAIZ AND TAKE DECISIONS FOR HIM, CLAIMING OTHER BUSINESS WOULD KEEP HIM FROM ATTENDING. THIS EXPLANATION HOLDS SOME WATER, IN LIGHT WORDING NIMEIRI/SIAD JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN MOGADISCIO, BUT OBVIOUSLY NIMEIRI'S PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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WNMXLBBF TWO MOST RADICAL ARAB GOVTS IN REGION SIT DOWN FOR SERIOUS AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH TWO MODERATE ARAB LEADERS. THIS OPENS WAY FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE NEXT STEPS IN EFFORTS BY MODERATE ARABS TO WEAN PDRY AND SOMALIA AWAY FROM SOVIET PATRONS.

2. HAJ YOUSIF HIMSELF ADMITTED THAT CHIEF SIGNIFICANCE OF TAIZ "SUMMIT" WAS FACT THAT IT HAD TAKEN PLACE AT ALL, SO SOON AFTER CASTRO'S SIMILAR SWING THROUGH HORN AND ADEN. HE IMPLIED CASTRO HAD SOUGHT DISCOURAGE PDRY AND GSDR HEADS OF STATE FROM ATTENDING.

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0996

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

3. CONCRETE RESULTS TAIZ SUMMIT AT FIRST BLUSH APPEAR TO
HAVE BEEN FEW. HOWEVER, NIMEIRI ANNOUNCED ON HIS RETURN
HERE THAT LEADERS HAD AGREED AGENDA SHOULD BE PREPARED ON
WHICH BASE INVITATIONS TO "ALL RED SEA LITTORAL STATES" FOR
GENERAL CONFERENCE, AIM OF WHICH WOULD BE TO ASSURE RED SEA
IS ZONE OF PEACE AND THAT ITS "ABUNDANT RESOURCES" ARE
EXPLOITED. FONMINS AND TECHNICIANS OF FOUR COUNTRIES ARE TO
PREPARE AGENDA WITHIN ONE MONTH AND PRESS HAS REPORTED MEETING
ITSELF MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN MAY.

4. WHILE SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE DELIGHTED RE TAIZ MEETING,
EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR INITIALLY LESS ENTHUSIASTIC AND WE NOTE
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FONMIN FAHMY FAILED MENTION SUBJECT IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH
CHARGE MATTHEWS MARCH 23 (CAIRO 4971). IT OCCURS TO US
NIMEIRI'S ACTIVIST ROLE AT BEHEST, OR IN PURSUIT OF, SAUDIS
MAY BE VIEWED AS MIXED BLESSING IN CAIRO.

5. WHILE FINAL COMMUNIQUE MADE STANDARD REFERENCES TO ISRAEL
AND DJIBOUTI, THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO REFERENCE TO ETHIOPIA

OR SOVIET UNION, NOR ANY LANGUAGE REFERRING TO RED SEA AS QUOTE ARAB LAKE UNQUOTE. WHETHER THIS REFLECTS WILLINGNESS HAVE ETHIOPIA AND FTAI (BUT OF COURSE NOT ISRAEL) ATTEND PROPOSED CONFERENCE IS UNCLEAR. HOWEVER, NIMEIRI TOLD SUNA THAT RED SEA AREA SECURITY WAS LINKED TO SECURITY INDIAN OCEAN, BOTH OF WHICH VITAL TO ARAB NATIONS.

6. NIMEIRI OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS HIS TRIP AND SEEKING MAINTAIN MOMENTUM ON RED SEA ISSUE. WE SUSPECT GOS WILL EXPECT SHOW OF GRATITUDE FROM SAUDIS IN FORM INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. NOTEWORTHY THAT FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID LEFT TAIZ DIRECTLY TO KEEP SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT MEET WITH PRINCE FAHD IN RIYADH. SUDANESE MININT IBRAHIM REPORTEDLY JOINED KHALID FOR THIS SESSION, CAUSING US SPECULATE ONE GOS PURPOSE MAY BE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EDU AND MORE MODERATE ERITREAN ELEMENTS. (AS HEAD PUBLIC SECURITY, IBRAHIM HANDLES ALL SUCH CONTACTS FOR GOS). FINALLY, NIMEIRI'S APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL VENTURE INTO REGIONAL DIPLOMACY AND HIS WELCOME IN SUCH DIVERSE CAPITALS AS MUSCAT AND MOGADISCIO WILL BE SEEN LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY AS ADDING TO HIS PRESTIGE. BREWER

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